

ILLEGIB

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* suggest additional DISSEM to DCI (action)

REF: SAIGON 11705 (IN 052411)

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1. COLLECTIVELY AND INDIVIDUALLY, EVANS AND NOVAK SEEM WELL DISPOSED TO [REDACTED] AND HAVE GOOD RECORD FOR DISCRETION WITH US. EVANS CREDITS MR. GOODWIN WITH HAVING TAUGHT THE JOURNALISTS' TRADE WHEN HE WAS A CUB REPORTER. NOVAK WAS INTERVIEWED AT HEADQUARTERS PRIOR TO MID-EAST TRIP LAST YEAR AND PROFITING HIMSELF MOST GRATEFUL. SO FAR AS WE AWARE, HE ADHERED SCRUPULOUSLY TO NO ATTRIBUTION GROUND RULES AND GENERALLY PLAYED GAME ACCORDING TO HOYLE.

2. WE APOLOGIZE FOR NOT ADVISING YOU FYI [REDACTED]

25X1

NOVAK LENGTHY BACKGROUND BRIEFING ON VIETNAM, LAOS AND CAMBODIA PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE. NOVAK WAS EFFUSIVELY [REDACTED]

25X1

SEEMED VERY WELL DISPOSED TOWARD [REDACTED]

HE MADE A POINT OF PRAISING) AND SEEMED GENERALLY SYMPATHETIC

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TO US POLICY. BASIC THEME OF BRIEFING WAS THAT ~~XX~~ LEITMOTIF BEHIND CURRENT, AND PAST DECADE'S, DEVELOPMENTS THROUGHOUT INDOCHINA WAS EXPANSIONIST, AGGRESSIVE DESIGNS OF LAO DONG POLITBUREAU IN HANOI. NOVAK DID NOT DISAGREE AND IN FACT VOICED RATHER ILLEGIB PERSONAL SENTIMENTS. AT ONE POINT HE OBSERVED THAT CURRENT HEADLINES MADE MUCH MALIGNED DOMINO THEORY LOOK PRETTY GOOD.

3. GIVEN ABOVE, SUGGEST YOU GRANT NOVAK WHATEVER TIME YOUR SCHEDULE PERMITS AND, SUBJECT TO USUAL RESTRICTIONS AND GROUND RULES, ENGAGE IN WHATEVER SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION YOUR PERSONAL INCLINATIONS DICTATE. WE WOULD APPRECIATE A NOTE ON ANY SUCH CONVERSATIONS FOR OUR RECORDS.

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END OF MESSAGE

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** Requested guidance for briefing Mr. Robert Novak, member of columnist team of Evans and Novak.

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George A. Carver, Jr.

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